

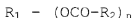
## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

### 1. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing toner comprising:

coagulating at least one crystalline ester compound represented by Formula 1 and resin particles in an aqueous medium in the presence of an aluminum compound, wherein said ~~crystalline ester compound is uniformly included in a toner particle,~~ aluminum compound is used as a coagulation agent; and  
washing coagulated particles so that the amount of the coagulation agent remained in the toner is reduced;

Formula 1



wherein,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each a carbon hydride group having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms which may have a substituent and  $n$  is an integer of from 1 to 4.

### 2. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 1 wherein an irregular-shaped particle having a polarity reverse to the charging property of the toner is externally added to the toner particle.

3. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 1, wherein a monodispersed spherical silica having a volume average particle diameter of from 80 to 300 nm is externally added to the toner.

4. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 1, wherein the aluminum compound is at least one selected from a metal salt.

5. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 4, wherein the carbon hydride group represented by  $R_2$  has from 16 to 30 carbon atoms.

6. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 1, wherein the volume average diameter of the resin particle is from 50 to 2,000 nm.

7. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 1, wherein the carbon hydride group represented by  $R_1$  has 1 to 20 carbon atoms, the carbon hydride group represented by  $R_2$  has 16 to 30 carbon atoms and  $n$  is an integer of from 2 to 4.

8. (Previously Presented)

A method for forming an image comprising:

developing a static latent image formed on a photoreceptor by the toner obtained by the method of claim 1,

transferring the toner image formed on the photoreceptor onto an image receiving material,

separating the image receiving material having the transferred toner image from the photoreceptor, and

thermally fixing the toner image onto the image receiving material.

9. (Original)

The method for forming the image of claim 8, comprising recovering the toner remained on the photoreceptor after the transferring.

10. (Original)

The method for forming the image of claim 8, wherein the step of thermally fixing the toner image transferred onto the image receiving material comprises passing the image receiving material between a heating roller and a pressure roller.

11. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing toner comprising:

coagulating particles (A) comprising at least one crystalline ester compound represented by Formula 1 and a resin with resin particles (B) in an aqueous medium in the presence of an aluminum compound, wherein said aluminum compound is used as a coagulation agent; and

washing coagulated particles so that the amount of the coagulation agent remained in the toner is reduced;

Formula 1



wherein,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each a carbon hydride group having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms which may have a substituent and  $n$  is an integer of from 1 to 4.

12. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, comprising adding a droplet of the ester compound to a solution of a polymerizable monomer and-polymerizing the polymerizable monomer.

13. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, comprising preparing a resin particle dispersion containing the resin particle (B), preparing a particle (A)-containing dispersion containing Particle (A), and preparing a colorant dispersion containing a colorant particle, and preparing coagulated particle by coagulating the particle (A), the particle (B) and the colorant particle in an aqueous medium in the presence of the aluminum compound.

14. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, comprising dissolving the ester compound into the polymerizable monomer solution, preparing the dispersion of the resin particle (A) containing the ester compound, and preparing a coagulated particle by coagulating the resin particle (A) with resin

particle (B) containing a colorant particle in an aqueous medium in the presence of the aluminum compound.

15. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, comprising adding the polymerizable monomer into a solution containing the ester compound, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomer.

16. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, comprising adding the polymerizable monomer and a droplet of the ester compound into the dispersion of the resin particle (B).

17. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11 wherein an irregular-shaped particle having a polarity reverse to the charging property of the toner is externally added to the toner particle.

18. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, wherein a monodispersed spherical silica having a volume average particle diameter of from 80 to 300 nm is externally added to the toner.

19. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, wherein the aluminum compound is at least one selected from a metal salt.

20. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, wherein the volume average diameter of the particle (A) is from 50 to 2,000 nm.

21. (Original)

The method for producing the toner of claim 11, wherein the carbon hydride group represented by  $R_1$  has 1 to 20 carbon atoms, the carbon hydride group represented by  $R_2$  has 16 to 30 carbon atoms and n is an integer of from 2 to 4.